

Volume 1, Issue 8 FORT DRUM January 2003

# FORT DRUM EDUCATION CENTER

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The
Army Education
Center
at the
McEwen Library and
Education Complex

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday

1245-1600

(315) 772-6878





The Fort Drum Education Center Mountain Climber

Garrison Commander COL Emory R. Helton

Director, Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization LTC Alan D. Fessenden

Education Services
Officer
Carla K. Ortiz

Editor Joseph A.Agresti

# On the Education Services Officer's Desk

In 1986, I was working as a Claims Authorizer for Social Security in Baltimore, Maryland, when I decided I was in a rut and needed to make a career change. I applied for every job that I might possibly be qualified for in the Federal Government that would take me overseas. My first job offer was from the Army in Grafenwoehr, Germany as an Intern Guidance Counselor in an Army Education Center. It was a demotion of five grades, but they promised to pay for rent and utilities, and a good portion of my Masters degree, as well as give me save pay for two years. It sounded like a good deal to me, and what an adventure! Having no idea of what the job really entailed, I accepted and forty-five days later embarked on my trip to Grafenwoehr.

I quickly learned Army ranks, that I needed a set of orders for every TDY trip I was required to take, and that every organization follows instructions provided by an Army regulation. I also learned that in 1986, it was **VERY** difficult for a soldier to successfully earn a degree while in the Army unless he/she stayed at one location for a very long time.

In 1986, the Army in Germany did not have DSN phone lines. We used an ETS - European Telephone System - phone system. It was frequently hard to hear and we were often cut off during a conversation. Our phone calls were limited to "in-country" calls, so communications were minimal. This severely limited our ability to assist soldiers with their educational pursuits. We had no computers; all records were kept by hand. If a soldier needed to apply for a college transcript, he/she needed to apply through "snail mail". Often the college transcript cost was



unavailable, or the cost information we supplied was old and incorrect. Many times a soldier would apply for the transcript, and a month later the college would return the request because the transcript fee had increased, or the soldier would not hear from the college and would have to apply again. If the soldier chose to or had to telephone the college, it was extremely expensive. All of our reference materials in the Army Education Center were sent from the States and were often out of date when they arrived because the mail system took so long and it was so difficult to communicate. Soldiers who desired different or higher-level courses than those offered on post could opt to travel an hour or more to another post that was offering the courses. Each small post offered seven to twenty courses. Soldiers could also choose to take correspondence courses from Stateside colleges. They were ordered through the postal system with its built-in time delays. If all went well, and the paperwork was not lost, the course would arrive at the earliest a month or more later. Lessons were sent and completed one at a time and mailed back. Feedback on each

lesson could take a month or more to come back. It was a slow, frustrating process. But many soldiers persevered because they really wanted the degree.

Today, education centers offer a wealth of courses, college degrees, and information to soldiers. Colleges have email addresses and websites, so all are very easy to reach. Many have 1-800 numbers or other toll free numbers that can be reached worldwide. The cost of making a phone call is minuscule, even from Germany, compared to 1986. Distance learning courses are done through the Internet and students can have conversations with the instructor on a daily basis, if needed. Assignments can be emailed or faxed, or posted to a chat room and the feedback received immediately. Reference materials and study guides are updated regularly through information provided over email or the Internet. Many reference materials are available on the Internet. Soldiers now receive 100% tuition assistance and a program like eArmyU allows soldiers to complete courses anytime, anywhere.

Today's technology has opened many doors to educational opportunities for our soldiers. We invite you to visit the Education Center, explore the many opportunities and take advantage of these offerings. An educated soldier is a ready soldier.

Carla K. Ortiz Education Services Officer



Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support (DANTES)

Did you know that you can use your military knowledge and expertise to help you test out of college classes? The DANTES Test Office in the Army Education Center offers College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations, DANTES Standardized Subject Tests (DSST) and Excelsior College Exams (ECE). Today we offer over 100 tests ranging in the fields of Psychology, Business, Nursing, History and many more. These tests and examinations are fully funded for soldiers and available to adult family members for a fee.

Are you wondering how you can use these exams to your benefit? Just take an example from two soldiers who were recently deployed to Fort Drum from their National Guard duty stations in Massachusetts. Robert Russo and Adam Lindquist took full advantage of their opportunity to test out of college classes while being stationed here. They were able to work towards their Bachelor degrees without ever stepping foot in a college classroom. CPL Russo earned approximately 90 credit hours while SPC Lindquist was steadily approaching 70 when he was demobilized. They have both attained their Associate degrees and are well on track for their Bachelors. Both soldiers joined the

National Guard with hopes of completing their college education with a goal of applying for Officer Candidate School.

When they were asked how they prepared for their exams, CPL Russo explained that he did not study much; he is simply a history buff and a good test taker. On the other hand, SPC Lindquist stated that he usually enjoyed a pasta dinner the night before along with some light exercise. For a more conventional preparation, you can pick up study guides and many of the reference books for the examination from the Multi-Use Learning Facility, Room 141, at the Education Center. If you have any questions about these testing opportunities or would like to sign up for practice or final tests, please visit the MLF or call 772-9993.

Nicole Lovald DANTES Test Examiner Resource Consultants, Inc

Marian Weisz Army Guidance Counselor DANTES Test Control Officer

# Study Tips and e Learning for College Success

Whether you are sitting in a traditional classroom or studying a course online, there is no secret to being a good student and making good grades; it takes hard work. The task; however, will seem easier with preparation, a good plan, and follow through. The end result will be successful course completions, less stress, and better grades.

Studying at home, the library, or in our Multi-Use Learning Facility (MLF) requires the same basics, a quiet area, good. lighting, desk, comfortable seating, and all of your materials needed for your study session. If you study in places like the library or home, find a good location, away from the walking traffic and free of distraction. Since reading will consume a large portion of your study, ensure it's productive. If you are not sure of your reading skill, the MLF has resources to help you assess and improve them. Remember the rate at which you read a textbook is different from reading a novel . You can also schedule a Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) to determine your reading grade level. It is recommended that beginning college students read at least at the 12th grade level.

Next, a study schedule can help you prevent the fear of rushing and/or failure. Invest in or make a calendar to help develop your study sessions. As soon as you receive your syllabus or course outline, take time to read it completely and put all important dates, course deadlines, academic and social activities on your calendar. Do this for each class.

A good technique is to plan backwards from important dates. For example, you have just finished reading the course outline and you note that a paper is due in four weeks! *Do not panic*. Start with the date it is due and plan time for the first and final drafts. Leave time to have someone else read it or proof it. After planning time for research, rough drafting, getting any clarification from the professor, you

# Other Voices Thoughts from outside the box

determine the date you need to start to complete the work due. Place that start date on your calendar. Use the same technique for each project you have to do and prioritize which gets done first and so on.

Use this prioritizing work to help eliminate stress and complete your work smoothly and on schedule. Make a " to do" list and write the tasks down in order of importance. Place the list where it is visible daily and mark each one off as it is completed. Set goals for one week at a time. Make sure they are obtainable and realistic.

Daily reviews help you retain the information. One method is the PQR3 formula

- P- **Preview** what you are going to study.
- Q-Question what you are going to learn.

R3-Read, Recite, and Review. Read the assignment, recite or put the information in your own words, and review for understanding.

In addition to the skills developed above, online study may require you to log on to chat with classmates, have mentoring sessions with professors or participate in class discussion boards. These are *class dates* and should be scheduled on your calendar.

Check your calendar nightly, get a picture of what you need to do for the next day. Procrastination will be your only enemy if you keep your schedule in mind

Good Luck

David James Boyce, Jr Education Support Services Resource Consultants, Inc



# Department of Veteran's **Affairs**

Among the most recent news updates coming from the DVA include changes to pay rates for the benefits. Adatabase by state MGIB, changes in delimiting dates for Selected Reservists, and types of training the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) can be used to pay for.

**MGIB** and Licensure and Certification - Public Law (PL) enacted in 2001 authorizes the individual states to identify those license and certificate examinations recipients to claim accelerated that they wish to fund with federal veteran's benefits. Once identified. veterans may apply to the DVA to

reimburse up to the actual cost of the test or \$2000 whichever is less. The reimbursement can be used for both the initial certification, retests, and recertification as long as the veteran is eligible to receive is linked from the VA Education homepage, as well as an interactive Q&A web

**MGIB** and Accelerated Payments - PL effective in 2002 authorizes CH 30. MGIB-Active Duty (MGIB-AD), payments of up to 60% of tuition and fees, charged by a school for a semester, term, or

have their MGIB funds used to course of a program defined by the DVA as "high-technology". The MGIB-AD claimant must certify that they will seek later employment in "high-technology" and are certified by the school as enrolled in the program. Programs that fall under the DVA's definition are identified on the website.

> **MGIB-SR Delimiting Date Changes** - Selected Reservists of the Army Reserve and National Guard covered by Ch1606, the MGIB-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) have had their delimiting date changed effective October 1, 2002. The change extends the 10 year delimiting date to 14 years for all Tuition Assistance, as MGIB-SR claimants who entered documentation of their claim. See

the program after October 1, 1992. Unlike the MGIB-AD, the MGIB-SR limit begins with enrollment, not separation from service. MGIB-SR claimants should contact the DVA if they feel they are affected by the extension.

MGIB and "Top Up" - the "Top Up" option may still be used by MGIB-AD claimants using Active Army Tuition Assistance (TA). "Top Up" can be used to reimburse claimants for tuition and some fees charged by schools that exceed the Army's per semester hour cap of \$250 per semester hour. Claimants must include a copy of the DA 2171, Request for

your Education Center for details.

Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) - the DVA now requires MGIB-SR and MGIB-AD traditional claimants use the WAVE to verify their continued enrollment online at the DVA Education website. Verification used to be accomplished through the mail causing delay in payment of benefit. Assistance for claimants without Web access can be found through the Interactive Voice Recording (IVR) at 1-877-823-2378.

Diane Turo-Hughes **Guidance Counselor** 



# **Army Personnel Testing**

The news in Army Personnel Testing is The Excellence in Armor (EIA) Program's newly updated Tank Commander and Scout Commander Competency Tests - Level II (TCCT/SCCT-II).

The EIA Program, established by the Office of the Chief of Armor, identifies outstanding CMF 19 series soldiers whose performance demonstrates superb leadership potential. Enrollment in the program is open to soldiers in CMF 19 with company/troop commander recommendation and battalion/squadron commander approval.

A Sergeant or Sergeant Promotable, MOS 19D or K, who is enrolled in the EIA Program, may request the competency tests. A passing score of 70 on this series of comprehensive

written examinations can earn the soldier 50 promotion points. The exams are based on skill level 30 and 40 tasks, and have a time limit of 2 hours. As with many Army Personnel Tests, a soldier may only take the exam once in his/her career.

For more information, please see your chain of command, education counselor, or visit the Office of the Chief of Armor website at:

www.army.mil/center/ocoa/index.htm

Les Barbour Army Guidance Counselor



# **Army Continuing Education System** ACES

Two areas within your Education

**Basic Skill Education Program** (BSEP) - BSEP, the program formerly known as FAST, is a fifteen-day program designed to assist soldiers in improving their basic reading and math skills. These elements are key factors within the General Technical (GT) scores of the ASVAB and AFCT, and play an important role in many personnel actions. BSEP can assist soldiers in enhancing their overall duty performance, qualify for retention, MOS reclassification and special personnel actions like OCS and warrant officer training. The average increase of soldiers currently successfully completing BSEP is 11 points.

BSEP classes are conducted three hours per day, five days a week, except for federal holidays and other

dates as determined by the ESO. There are two sessions to choose from morning (0900-1200) and afternoon (1300-1600).

A standard memorandum is available from the Education Center: it must be Center that have seen recent change approved by the Company Commander and returned at least one week prior to start date. For further information contact the Education Center at 772-6878.

# Multi-Use Learning Facility (MLF)

Your MLF is located in Room 141 of the Army Education Center. We support all soldiers, family members, and DoD civilians. Some of the services offered in the MLF include:

- 24 Internet-accessible computers
- Flectronic library
- Subject study guides for CLEP, DSST, Excelsior exams
- Test scheduling, preparation, and study resources
- Army Correspondence Course
- Typing skill improvement software eArmyU information

# **Army Tuition Assistance**

There are a number of federally funded programs that assist students in pursuing higher education. Army Tuition Assistance (TA) is provided for all Active Duty and Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) personnel assigned to or serviced by Fort Drum

As of October 1, 2002, TA funding increased from 75% to 100%, capped based on a per semester hour figure of \$250 (\$166.67 per quarter hour/\$16.67 per clock hour) and an annual ceiling of \$4500. The semester hour cap and ceiling reflect increases from the previous FY as well. Tuition costs that exceed the semester rate will be paid at a flat rate of \$250; the remainder of the tuition cost must be paid for by the service member.

Army TA will also pay for some fees directly required for the course. These fees may include computer usage distance learning (DL) and technology fees. Army TA will not pay for enrollment, matriculation, or graduation fees, or fees not directly linked to a specific course. The cost of fees when added to tuition cannot exceed the \$250 cap.

Institutions must be accredited through the Department of Education  Career assessment and financial aid software programs.

The MLF is open seven days a week. Contact Mr. Jim Morrow at 772-9993 for more information on exact times.

Diane Smith Army Guidance Counselor

# **Websites**

# Office of the Chief of

# Armor

www.army.mil/center/ocoa/ index.htm

# **eArmyU**

www.earmyu.com

# **DVA**

www.gibill.va.gov

# eArmy U

Beginning in mid-January 2003, soldiers at Fort Drum may again enroll in eArmyU through the Education Center. Often hailed as the "biggest leap in Army education since the GI Bill", eArmyU equips eligible soldiers with a technology package or "tech pack" and funding to pursue college studies anytime and anywhere internet access is available. The "tech pack", which includes a laptop computer and internet service provider or ISP account, enables soldiers to pursue associate, bachelors, and masters degrees, in addition to technical certificate programs.

eArmyU uses a virtual portal that provides easy access for participants to more than 90 online degree and certificate programs through over 20 accredited colleges and universities. The portal (eArmyU.com) includes access to virtual classrooms,

materials, discussion groups, library resources, assessment tools, academic advisement and tutoring, and administrative support. In addition, academic and technical assistance is available locally at the Education Center. through the staffs of the eArmyU Office and the Multi-Use Learning Facility.

eArmyU eligibility criteria include:

- Active duty or Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) enlisted personnel in grades E-1 to E-
- 3 year service remaining requirement (SRR)
- High school diploma or GED
- Eligible for favorable personnel actions
- Have approval of Commander
- Service members must complete 12 semester hours with the 1st 24 months enrolled

In addition, if the soldier's GT

score is below 110, a TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) test will be administered as an assessment tool.

eArmyU participants are provided with a laptop computer and Internet service, 100% tuition (up to the Army's \$250 per semester hour cap, and an annual \$4500 ceiling), fees and books. The cost of the Technology Package is deducted from the student's \$4500 ceiling during the first year of eArmyU participation.

Interested? Contact your NCO chain of command immediately and let them know you'd like to be referred.

Frances Lueders **Education Services Specialist**  before a soldier can receive Army TA. The primary source for determining accreditation is listing in the Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education. TA can be approved for schools already accredited or candidates for accreditation. The soldier is required to provide proof of accreditation if the school is not found in the primary source. Two additional sources for accreditation would be the school's website or the Department of Education's listing of approved accrediting agencies at www.edgoc/offices/OPE/accreditation/ natlagencies.html.

Upfront Army TA is authorized for classroom and DL based courses that meet specific guidelines. Soldiers must meet with an Army counselor to declare an educational goal and establish a degree plan. Applications for TA must be submitted to the Army Education Center prior to the class start date, and will not be approved after late registration ends.

Contact the Education Center today if you have questions about Army Tuition Assistance.

Kerry Parker Army Guidance Counselor



# SUNY COLLEGES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY



# **Dropping a class**

When dropping a class, it is just as important to follow correct procedures as when registering for the class. If your received Army Tuition Assistance and need to drop that class, **see** your Army Education Counselor FIRST!!. Don't simply tell your instructor or your first sergeant or whomever.

You must see your education counselor and then fill out the proper paperwork for the college office.

# **SUNY Potsdam**

# Semester Dates 1/22-5/3/03

Our local Potsdam advisor is Mr. Tom Yousey. Tom is available by appointment to discuss Potsdam's education program. He divides his time between his office at JCC and his office at Ft Drum. He also teaches for both Potsdam and JCC, so it's usually best to email him at tlyousey@northnet.org or leave voice mail on his JCC phone 786-2372 or his home phone at 376-7633.

# **SUNY Empire State College**

# Various Semester dates

HIS229/339	History of Science	TBA	TBA	4sh	FTD
MKT201/301	Marketing (1/23-3/13/03)	Th	12-1400	4sh	FTD
MTH238	Intro to Statistics	TBA	TBA	4sh	Watertown
ENG250/320	Topics in Writing	TBA	TBA	4sh	Watertown
CHS235/335	Comm Appr to Helping	TBA	TBA	4sh	Watertown
CHS225/425	Prof Styles & Persp on Helping	TBA	TBA	4sh	Watertown

Students in the Fort Drum unit of SUNY Empire State will see a new face beginning in mid-February. Dr. Joanne Corsica, current site coordinator, will be leaving to begin her sabbatical. Dr. Marina Privman will serve as site coordinator in Dr. Corsica's absence.

# SUNY Oswego

# (Course location- Jefferson Community College)

# Various Semester dates

HRM385 Organizational Behavior	Мо	TBA	3sh	JCC
CPS308 800 Iss. and Careers in Hum Serv	Мо	16-2000	3 sh	JCC
CPS502 800 Race, Gender & Class Issues	Tu	16-2000	3sh	JCC
CPS505 810 Psy Found-Patterns Emot Adj	We	19-2130	3sh	JCC
CPS508 800 Prof Prob in Human Serv	Mo	16-2000	3sh	JCC
CPS512 010 Case Studies in Counseling	We	1630-1900	3sh	JCC
CPS513 010 Case Stdy Drug&Alcohol Cslg	We	1630-1900	3sh	JCC
CPS515 010 Field Study in Counseling	Th	16-1800	3sh	JCC
CPS516 010 Field Exp in Alcohol Counsel II	Th	16-1800	3sh	JCC
CPS591 800 Intro to Family Systems	Th	1630-1900	3sh	JCC
CPS597 800 Program Evaluation	Tu	1615-1845	3sh	JCC
PBJ301 810 Org Structure & Com	Sa	0900-1145	3sh	JCC

Mr. Larry Mayo is the Fort Drum site coordinator for SUNY Oswego. Beginning January 22, Larry's office hours are changing from Mondays to Wednesdays. He will maintain his schedule of advising at Fort Drum in the mornings and JCC in the afternoons. Anyone needing an appointment with Larry should call 773-9007.

# **SUNY Canton**

Coursework available in the following fields Criminal Investigation or Automotive Technology Call the SUNY North Country office at 315-773-9007 for more

# **SUNY Plattsburgh**

# Semester dates 1/27-5/16/03

NUR351	Care of Families/Elderly	Th	1630-1920	3sh	JCC
	Managemnt & Leadrship		1630-1720		JCC
NUR437	Professional Issues	Мо	1630-1720	3sh	JCC

Note: Plattsburgh courses are offered as part of the Telenursing program. Please call 1-800-787-8773 for registration materials and/or information.

# **Jefferson Community College**

Special tele-course from 1/21/03-5/14/03						
CRJ207 FTD	Community Corrections	M/W	17-1830	3sh		

# Early Spring Classes at Fort Drum - 1/21-3/17/03

ACC101 811	Accounting Principles I	M/W	1800-2135	4sh
BIO105 811	Environ Biology	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
CIS110 811	Intro to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3sh
CRJ115 811	Criminal Law	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG099 081	Basic English	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG100 811	Composition 1	<del>M/W</del>	Closed	
ENG101 811	Composition 2	<del>M/W</del>	Closed	
ENG102 811	Compos and Lit	<del>M/W</del>	Closed	
NET100 811	Networking Fund	<del>M/W</del>	Cancelled	
SOC144 811	Intro to Sociology	<del>M/W</del>	Closed	
BUS104 811	Personal Finance	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
CIS110 812	Intro to Computers	Tu/Th	1800-2135	3sh
CIS116 811	Intro to Programming	Tu/Th	1800-2135	3sh
CLS101 811	College Reading Skills	Tu/Th	Cancelled	
CRJ208 811	Issues in Criminal Just	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
ECO101 811	Macroeconomics	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
HIS111 811	Western Civilization 1	Tu/Th	Closed	
MTH129 811	Survey of Math	<del>Tu/T</del> h	Closed	
PSY133 811	Intro to Psychology	Tu/Th	Closed	
SPA111 811	Conversational Spanish 1	l Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
HIS150 801	Amer History to 1865	MTuWTh	Closed	
SOC144 801	Intro to Sociology	MTuWTh	Closed	
	0,			

# Late Spring Classes at Fort Drum -3/24-5/13/03

	ACC102	851	Accounting Principles 2	M/W	1800-2135	4sh
	ART115	851	Art Appreciation 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
	CIS110	851	Intro to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3sh
	CRJ205	851	Crim Investigation 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
	ENG100	851	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
	ENG101	851	Composition 2	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
	ENG102	851	Comp & Literature	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
	GEG101	851	Intro to World Geog	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
	PSY133	851	Intro to Psychology	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
	SOC246	851	Juvenile Delinquency	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
	BUS160	851	<b>Spreadsheet Applications</b>	Tu/Th	1800-2135	3sh
	BUS221	851	Human Resources Mgmt	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
	CRJ212	851	Intro Security Prin/Prac	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
	ECO102	851	Microeconomics	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
	GEO102	851	Planet Earth	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
	HIS112	851	Western Civilization 2	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
	MTH144	851	Elementary Statistics	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
2	POL121	851	Intro to Amer Gov't	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
י ו	PSY235	851	Abnormal Psychology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
? "\	SOC144	851	Intro to Sociology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
ر	HIS151	805	Amer Hist since 1865	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3sh
	SOC241	805	Marriage & Family	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3sh

Mr. Donald Johnson is JCC's advisor at Fort Drum. You can see him to discuss your JCC degree and for course advisement. Call 773-9007 for appointments.